

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-node network of processors, comprising:

a network;

a plurality of processors coupled in said network, each of said processors ~~having a minimally operational state comprising a non-volatile memory configured to store program code of a minimally operational state, said program code comprising only boot program code,~~ said minimally operational state absent ~~[[a]]~~ an operating code image required to become fully operational, said ~~minimally operational state boot program code~~ sufficient to operate said processor to provide a code image request; and ~~having a fully operational state employing a comprising a volatile memory configured to store said operating code image,~~ said operating code image configured to place said processor in a fully operational state; said processors, when in said minimally operational state, ~~requesting~~ employing said boot program code to request said operating code image from said network by means of said code image request; and

a master source coupled in said network, said master source ~~having~~ configured to provide at least said operating code image for broadcasting said operating code image on said network, said master source, upon receiving said code image request, waiting a predetermined time period, said predetermined time period allowing any additional said processor to reach said minimally operational state, and, upon completion of said predetermined time period, broadcasting said operating code image on said network.

2. (Currently Amended) The multi-node network of processors of Claim 1, wherein said processors, additionally, upon said broadcast of said operating code image, employ said boot program code to receive and implement said operating code image only if said processor is in said minimally operational state.

Cancel Claims 3, 4, 5 and 6.

7. (Currently Amended) The multi-node network of processors of Claim 1, wherein said master source provides one said operating code image for any said code image request.

8. (Currently Amended) The multi-node network of processors of Claim 7, wherein ones of said processors implement different said operating code images, wherein said one master source operating

code image comprises a combination of said different operating code images, and wherein said processors employ said boot program code additionally to select, store in said volatile memory, and implement one of said combination of different operating code images.

9. (Currently Amended) The multi-node network of processors of Claim 1, wherein said master source ~~comprises~~ is configured to provide a plurality of different said operating code images, wherein said processor requesting said operating code image requests one of said different operating code images, wherein said master source ~~broadcasts~~ is configured to broadcast said requested one of said different operating code images, and wherein said processors employ said boot program code additionally to determine whether said broadcast operating code image is correct for said processor, and to select and store in said volatile memory, said broadcast operating code image for implementation if said determination determines that said operating code image is correct for said processor.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a code image for processing nodes of a multi-node network of processors, comprising the steps of:

at least one said processor, comprising a node of said network, in a minimally operational state employing program code

comprising only boot program code, said boot program code
sufficient to provide a code image request, requesting said an
operating code image from said network by means of said code
image request; said minimally operational state absent ~~[[a]]~~ said
operating code image required to become fully operational, said
~~minimally operational state sufficient to provide a code image~~
~~request;~~

a master source, upon receiving said code image request,
waiting a predetermined time period, said predetermined time
period allowing any additional said processor to reach said
minimally operational state; and

said master source, upon completion of said predetermined
time period, broadcasting said operating code image on said
network.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, additionally
comprising the step of, said processors, upon said broadcast of
said operating code image, receiving and implementing said
operating code image only if said processor is in said minimally
operational state.

Cancel Claims 12, 13, 14 and 15.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein one said operating code image is provided by said master source for any said code image request.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein ones of said processors implement different said operating code images, wherein said one operating code image provided by said master source comprises a combination of said different operating code images, and wherein said method additionally comprises the step of, said processors employing said boot program code, selecting and implementing one of said combination of different operating code images.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein said master source ~~comprises~~ is configured to provide a plurality of different said operating code images, wherein said step of said processor requesting said code image comprises employing said boot program code, requesting one of said different operating code images, wherein said step of said master source broadcasting said code image comprises broadcasting said requested one of said different operating code images, and wherein said method additionally comprises the step of, a receiving said processor employing said boot program code, determining whether said broadcast operating code image is correct for said processor, and selecting said operating code image for implementation if said

determination step determines that said operating code image is correct for said processor.

Cancel Claims 19, 20, 21 and 22.

23. (Currently Amended) For a multi-node network of processors, said network having a master source coupled in said network, said master source having a code image for broadcasting on said network, said master source, upon receiving a code image request, waiting a predetermined time period, ~~said predetermined time period allowing any additional processor to reach a minimally operational state,~~ and, upon completion of said predetermined time period, broadcasting said requested code image on said network, a processor comprising:

a processor interface coupling said processor in said network;

a non-volatile memory for storing program code providing a minimally operational state of said processor, said program code comprising only boot program code, said minimally operational state absent ~~[[a]]~~ an operating code image required to become fully operational, said ~~minimally operational state~~ boot program code sufficient to operate said processor to provide a code image request;

a processor memory capable of storing [[a]] said operating
code image providing a fully operational state of said processor;
and

a processing unit coupled to said non-volatile memory, said
processor memory and said processor interface, said processing
unit, when in said minimally operational state provided by said
non-volatile memory, ~~requesting~~ employing said boot program code
to request said operating code image from said network, via said
processor interface by means of said code image request.

24. (Currently Amended) The processor for a multi-node network
of processors of Claim 23, wherein said processing unit,
additionally, upon said broadcast of said code image by said
master source, ~~receives and stores~~ employs said boot program code
to receive and store said operating code image in said processor
memory, and ~~implements~~ implement said operating code image, only
if said processing unit is in said minimally operational state.

Cancel Claims 25, 26 and 27.

28. (Currently Amended) The processor for a multi-node network
of processors of Claim 23, wherein said master source provides
one said code image for any said code image request, said one
code image comprising a combination of [[said]] different
operating code images, and wherein ones of said processors

implement different said [[one]] operating code images, said processing unit additionally employing said boot program code, selecting, storing and implementing one of said combination of different code images.

29. (Currently Amended) The processor of a multi-node network of processors of Claim 23, wherein said master source comprises a plurality of different said operating code images, said master source broadcasting said requested one of said different operating code images, and wherein said processor requesting said operating code image requests one of said different operating code images, said processor employs said boot program code additionally ~~determines~~ to determine whether said broadcast code image is correct for said processor, and ~~selects~~ to select and store in said processor memory said broadcast operating code image for implementation if said determination determines that said operating code image is correct for said processor.

Cancel Claims 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34.

35. (Currently Amended) A multi-node network of processors, comprising:

a network;

a first set of redundant processors coupled in said network, said processors having a minimally operational state employing

program code comprising only boot program code, said boot program code sufficient to provide a code image request, said minimally operational state absent [[a]] an operating code image required to become fully operational, ~~said minimally operational state sufficient to provide a code image request~~; and having a fully operational state employing [[a]] an operating code image; said processors, when in said minimally operational state, requesting said operating code image from said network by means of said code image request;

a second set of redundant processors coupled in said network, said processors having a minimally operational state employing program code comprising only boot program code, said boot program code sufficient to provide a code image request, and having a fully operational state employing [[a]] an operating code image, said processors, when in said minimally operational state, requesting said operating code image from said network by means of said code image request; and

a master source coupled in said network, said master source having at least said operating code image for broadcasting said operating code image on said network, said first set of redundant processors rebooted to said minimally operational state, said master source, upon receiving said code image request from one of said first set of redundant processors, waiting a predetermined time period, said predetermined time period allowing any additional said processor to reach said minimally operational

state, and, upon completion of said predetermined time period, broadcasting said operating code image on said network, whereby said first set of redundant processors become fully operational; whereupon said second set of redundant processors are subsequently rebooted to said minimally operational state, said master source, upon receiving said code image request from one of said second set of redundant processors, waiting a predetermined time period, said predetermined time period allowing any additional said processor to reach said minimally operational state, and, upon completion of said predetermined time period, broadcasting said operating code image on said network, whereby said second set of redundant processors become fully operational.